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SCHAKOWSKY LEADS EFFORT TO ENSURE CONTINUED FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE INFECTED WITH HIV/AIDS

CALLS FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF RYAN WHITE CARE ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) is leading the charge to ensure continued federal support for people infected with HIV/AIDS.

Schakowsky initiated a letter, which was signed by Democratic and Republican members of the Illinois delegation, to key members of the House Commerce Committee. The members called on the Committee to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act before the law expires on September 30, 2000. The Ryan White CARE Act is a leading source for medical care and support services for people living with HIV.

"The Federal government's response to HIV/AIDS through the Ryan White CARE Act represents a fundamental contribution to the tremendous efforts being made in local areas throughout the country. The current structure of the CARE Act has created an environment that improves access to primary care and social support services," the members wrote.

"The State of Illinois continues to be highly affected by this epidemic; the Chicago area has the sixth highest number of reported AIDS cases, and Illinois ranks ninth among all states. We urge you to vigorously support the reauthorization of this critical piece of legislation before it expires on September 30," they continued.